

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q60899

The object of the invention is further attained by a process for making available connection data for determining path information for the data packets of ATM connections in such a communications network.

The object of the invention is still further attained by a process for determining path information for the data packets of ATM connections in a network node of such a communications network, wherein connection data are called up from a data bank assigned to a network node of the lower network level, and wherein the connection data which cannot be called up from the data bank assigned to the network node are called up from an additional data bank which is assigned to another network node.

The object of the invention is still further attained by network nodes for a lower network level of such a communications network, wherein the data bank keeps available connection data for a closer environment and the network node comprises interrogation means by which the connection data for a wider environment can be called up from an additional data bank which is assigned to another network node.

The object of the invention is yet further attained by a network node for a lower network level of such a communications network, wherein the lower level network node to which the additional data bank is assigned comprises means whereby connection data from the additional data bank can be emitted to other network nodes upon request.

Finally, the object of the invention is attained by network nodes for a higher network level of such a communications network, wherein the network node comprises means for supporting the exchange of connection data between data banks in network nodes for which this network node is responsible and data banks in other network nodes for maintaining the respective stored data.

Page 3, line 18, insert the heading **--Brief Description of the Drawings--**.

line 27, insert the heading **--Detailed Description of the Invention--**.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After the heading delete the title in its entirety.